under price control Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves, however, the Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

All medicines with same contents need not cost the same as the economics of production differs from one manufacturer to another.

Conversion to gas/coal based plants

1617. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a lack of coordinated approach between Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Coal for converting Naphtha based urea plants to either gas based or coal based plants;

(b) if so, whether a group of Ministry is being formed to address the issue; and

(c) if not, the detailed action plan for reviving/rebuilding such units in States of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa where there is no urea producing unit at present in public or private sector?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Government has in January, 2004 formulated a policy for conversion of existing Naphtha/FO/LSHS based urea units to natural gas/LNG as feedstock. The plants based on Naphtha/FO/LSHS are less energy efficient and have a higher production cost. Therefore, the policy encourages an early conversion to natural gas/LNG so that they acquire a competitive edge in the deregulated and liberalised economic scenario.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of the Government's Common Minimum Programme, the issue regarding the feasibility of revival of closed Fertilizer Public Sector undertakings based on market demand and their techno-economic viability has been entrusted to Projects & Development India Limited. Separately,

GAIL has initiated action for commissioning a Detailed Feasibility Report Study for commercial implementation of Coal Gassification Process.

Shortage of NPK Fertilizers in West Bengal

1618. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all potato growing districts in West Bengal are facing acute shortage of NPK fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details of the shortage faced and time bound action plan to rush NPK fertilizers to the above districts, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) DAP and complex fertilizers are decontrolled and their availability depends on market forces of demand and supply. About 65,000 MP DAP was made available to West Bengal from 1st October to 30th November, 2004 which was sufficient to support the sales of 59,000 MT during the period. The State Government has not reported any serious shortage of complex fertilizers.

Reviewing the PPL sell off deals

1619. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to review the Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) sell off deal arrived at earlier;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of the deal of sell off of PPL?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) M/s. Zuari Maroc Phosphates Ltd. who bought the Government stakes in Paradeep Phosphates Limited has submitted a post-closure claim of Rs. 151.55 crore on Government. As the report of the auditors